



DEVOTIONAL TIME

03-19-2015 @ 0900

**"When God Opens the Door,
Don't Worry; Just Walk Willingly in His Way!"**

Daniel 1:18-21

Because He Lives

God sent his Son! They called him "Jesus"; He came to love, heal, and forgive!
He lived and died to buy my pardon; an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow! Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living...just because He lives!

Daniel 1:18-21

"At the end of the three years set by the king, Ashpenaz took all the young men to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them all, and Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah impressed him more than any of the others. So they became members of the king's court. No matter what question the king asked or what problem he raised, these four knew ten times more than any fortuneteller or magician in his whole kingdom. Daniel remained at the royal court until Cyrus, the emperor of Persia, conquered Babylonia."

QUESTIONS FOR TODAY

- Have you ever found yourself "fearful" at facing a "tough task"? Were you worrying over "deadlines", or whether or not you would be able to meet all the needs the job "required"?
- Can you remember facing some very "thorny issues" at work or home... "Challenges" that "drove you to your knees"? Were you suddenly aware of "solution"/"resolution" after prayer?
- Did you ever have people tell you how "helpful" or "wise" you were, when all you had done was "follow the 'lead' of the Lord"? (Did you remember to give Him thanks and glory?)

The Scriptures assure us that God "shows no favoritism", but seeks to bless all who approach the "Throne of Grace and Mercy" with humility, obedience, and faith. This is "awesome news" to us all, because it means that what God did for Daniel and his friends long ago, He is ready, able, and willing to do for us today. If we will only make up our minds, as Daniel did, to "stand on the high ground", and "go all-in" for God, we will know blessing after blessing as our God grants us "Grace upon grace"! As we "live the Gospel" of Jesus Christ, God will bless us in all that we do...(though not always in any way we expect, or at the time we might wish!) In holy Providence, God will open doors for us and elevate us into areas we never would have imagined, let alone expected!. Now notice how God did not just "elevate" Daniel and his friends; He also "equipped" them with wisdom and knowledge greater than all the other "candidates of the court". God's Word affirms that Daniel and his friends were not necessarily "brighter" or "smarter" than anybody else; it was God who gave them this extra wisdom, insight, and knowledge. What God did then, God can still do now. We need to understand that the One who opens doors for us also equips us with the wisdom needed to work well once we enter. Too often, we "make it all about us", instead of trusting God. If it's His "Work" we are to do, we need to remember "where to turn" for the "skill sets" and "energy" required. God, grant us the Grace of child-like dependence. When You open doors to new opportunity, teach us to "take a page from Daniel". Make us faithful to You in all things, eager to give You the glory for any "success", and humble enough to walk where You lead with a grateful heart and a "servant mind"! Unlike Daniel, we have Your beloved Son as an even clearer Model of "faith and trust"! Teach us to follow His Example, share His Gospel, and live in His Peace, so our lives reveal Your Wisdom every day!